

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00441 061952Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OPR-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 VO-03

SY-05 ARAE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /087 W

-----074458 062017Z /66

O R 061630Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5706

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELIZE 0441

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR GT BH UK

SUBJECT: THE MOOD IN BELIZE

1. OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS THE BELIZEAN POPULACE SEEMS TO HAVE UPWARDLY REVISED ITS ESTIMATE OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF A GUATEMALAN INVASION. THE COUNTRY'S NORMAL APATHY AND SKEPTICISM HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY A PERVASIVE FEELING OF ANXIETY, EVEN ALARM, IN SOME INSTANCES, AND A SENSE OF IMPENDING CRISIS. THE BROADCASTS FROM RADIO AMATIQUE, THE GUATEMALAN STATION WHICH SPECIALIZES IN PROGRAMS AIMED AT BELIZE, ARE REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN ON AN UNUSUALLY MENACING TONE AND MAY ACCOUNT FOR SOME OF THE CURRENT TENSION. IN ANY CASE, OMINOUS RUMORS ABOUND. ONE HEARS THAT THE HARRIERS HAVE ARRIVED, THAT A BRITISH WARSHIP IS A FEW MILES OFFSHORE, THAT THE GUATEMALAN CONSUL GENERAL AND HIS FAMILY HAVE PACKED UP AND LEFT, THAT THE GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE INTENDS TO BOMB BELIZE CITY ON THE EVENING OF JULY 6, THAT GUATEMALAN TROOPS ARE MASSING ON THE BORDER, ETC., ETC.

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PAGE 02 BELIZE 00441 061952Z

2. IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH, IF ANY, TRUTH THERE MAY BE IN THESE RUMORS OR WHERE THEY ORIGINATED. THAT THE BRITISH DESTROYER MAY HAVE ARRIVED SEEMS PLAUSIBLE ENOUGH. THAT THE GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE PLANS TO BOMB BELIZE COMES FROM THE UNITED BRANDS REP; LATTER APPEARS TO BELIEVE THIS AND IS SENDING HIS FAMILY OUT OF THE COUNTRY. SOME BELIZEANS HAVE

EVACUATED THEIR FAMILIES TO THE OFFSHORE CAYES. THE GUATEMALAN CONSUL GENERAL WAS STILL HERE MONDAY BUT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HINTING SLYLY THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY WOULD BE LEAVING SOON TO AVOID THE HURRICANE SEASON. VISA APPLICATIONS ARE ABNORMALLY HIGH AND WE ARE GETTING NUMEROUS CALLS FROM AMERICAN CITIZENS ASKING OUR ADVICE AS TO WHETHER THEY SHOULD LEAVE.

3. WE ARE TELLING INQUIRERS THAT MOST OF THE RUMORS WE HAVE BEEN HEARING APPEAR TO BE EITHER UNFOUNDED OR EXAGGERATED, THAT WE ARE WATCHING THE SITUATION CAREFULLY AND, IN THE CASE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, THAT THEY SHOULD, AS A ROUTINE PRECAUTION, KEEP US APPRISED OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS.
GAWF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, INVASIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELIZE00441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770240-0121
Format: TEL
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770789/aaaaczph.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ec7b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1957502
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE MOOD IN BELIZE
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, GT, BH, UK
To: STATE GUATEMALA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ec7b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009